

1 What is claimed is:

2 1. An electronic-mail (e-mail) method for distributing an e-mail message to

3 selected ones of a pre-determined distribution list, comprising:

4 addressing the e-mail message to the pre-determined distribution list; and

5 selecting a subtractive list, which when applied to the pre-determined distribution

6 list, determines a modified distribution list comprising members of the pre-determined

7 distribution list not present in the subtractive list.

8

9 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

10 providing the e-mail message to an e-mail server operable to distribute the e-mail

11 message to the modified distribution list.

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13 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the e-mail server is further operable to

14 apply the subtractive list to the pre-determined distribution list to determine the modified

15 distribution list.

16

17 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

18 applying the subtractive list to the pre-determined distribution list to determine the

19 modified distribution list; and

20 distributing the e-mail message to the modified distribution list.

21

22 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the e-mail message is distributed via an e-

23 mail server, the method further comprising:

1       submitting at least an indicator of the pre-determined distribution list and of the  
2       subtractive list to the e-mail server so that the e-mail server may determine the modified  
3       distribution list; and

4       receiving from the e-mail server data to facilitate distributing the e-mail message  
5       to the modified distribution list.

6

7       6.      The method of claim 5, further comprising:

8       receiving from the e-mail server an indicator of the modified distribution list; and  
9       automatically re-addressing the e-mail message to indicator of the modified  
10      distribution list, wherein the e-mail server is operable to distribute the e-mail message.

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12      7.      The method of claim 1, wherein the distribution list is a selected one of: a  
13      manually created list, and an automatically generated list identifying members sharing a  
14      common characteristic.

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16      8.      The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
17       providing at least an identifier for the pre-determined distribution list and of the  
18       subtractive list to a list server operable to apply the subtraction list to the pre-determined  
19       distribution list to determine the modified distribution list; and  
20       receiving data from the list server to facilitate performing said distributing the e-  
21       mail message to the modified distribution list.

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1           9.    The method of claim 5, wherein the distribution server includes an e-mail

2   server functionality.

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4           10.   An electronic-mail (e-mail) method for distributing an e-mail message to

5   selected ones of a pre-determined distribution list, comprising:

6           receiving an e-mail message addressed to a first indicator for a pre-determined

7   distribution list;

8           receiving a second indicator for a subtractive list, which when applied to the pre-

9   determined distribution list, determines a modified distribution list comprising members

10   of the pre-determined distribution list not present in the subtractive list; and

11           distributing the e-mail message to each member of the modified distribution list.

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13           11.    The method of claim 10, further comprising:

14           first identifying, based at least in part on the first indicator, the members of the

15   pre-determined distribution list;

16           second identifying, based at least in part on the second indicator, the members of

17   the subtraction list; and

18           determining the modified distribution list based at least in part on membership of

19   the pre-determined list and the subtraction list.

20

21           12.    An article comprising a machine-accessible media having associated data

22   for distributing an e-mail message to selected ones of a pre-determined distribution list,

23   wherein the data, when accessed, results in a machine performing:

1 addressing the e-mail message to the pre-determined distribution list; and  
2 selecting a subtractive list, which when applied to the pre-determined distribution  
3 list, determines a modified distribution list comprising members of the pre-determined  
4 distribution list not present in the subtractive list.

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6 13. The article of claim 12 wherein the machine-accessible media further  
7 includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:  
8 providing the e-mail message to an e-mail server operable to distribute the e-mail  
9 message to the modified distribution list.

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11 14. The article of claim 12 wherein the machine-accessible media further  
12 includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:  
13 applying the subtractive list to the pre-determined distribution list to determine the  
14 modified distribution list; and  
15 distributing the e-mail message to the modified distribution list.

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17 15. The article of claim 12, wherein the e-mail message is distributed via an e-  
18 mail server, and wherein the machine-accessible media further includes data, when  
19 accessed, results in the machine performing:  
20 submitting at least an indicator of the pre-determined distribution list and of the  
21 subtractive list to the e-mail server so that the e-mail server may determine the modified  
22 distribution list; and

1 receiving from the e-mail server data to facilitate distributing the e-mail message  
2 to the modified distribution list.

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4 16. The article of claim 15 wherein the machine-accessible media further  
5 includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:  
6 receiving an indicator of the modified distribution list; and  
7 automatically re-addressing the e-mail message to indicator of the modified  
8 distribution list, wherein the e-mail server is operable to distribute the e-mail message.

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10 17. The article of claim 15 wherein the machine-accessible media further  
11 includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:  
12 providing at least an identifier for the pre-determined distribution list and of the  
13 subtractive list to a list server operable to apply the subtraction list to the pre-determined  
14 distribution list to determine the modified distribution list; and  
15 receiving data from the list server to facilitate performing said distributing the e-  
16 mail message to the modified distribution list.

17

18 18. An article comprising a machine-accessible media having associated data  
19 for distributing an e-mail message to selected ones of a pre-determined distribution list,  
20 wherein the data, when accessed, results in a machine performing:  
21 receiving an e-mail message addressed to a first indicator for a pre-determined  
22 distribution list;

1 receiving a second indicator for a subtractive list, which when applied to the pre-  
2 determined distribution list, determines a modified distribution list comprising members  
3 of the pre-determined distribution list not present in the subtractive list; and  
4 distributing the e-mail message to each member of the modified distribution list.

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6 19. The article of claim 18 wherein the machine-accessible media further  
7 includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:

8 first identifying, based at least in part on the first indicator, the members of the  
9 pre-determined distribution list;

10 second identifying, based at least in part on the second indicator, the members of  
11 the subtraction list; and

12 determining the modified distribution list based at least in part on membership of  
13 the pre-determined list and the subtraction list.